

# City Council: Policy Order 11, Airplane Noise, 5/18/15

Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2015 11:42 AM

City Clerk Agenda

To: City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Cc: Rossi, Rich <rrossi@cambridgema.gov>; Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>; Farooq, Iram <ifarooq@cambridgema.gov>; Rasmussen, Susanne <srasmussen@cambridgema.gov>; Deignan, Bill <wdeignan@cambridgema.gov>;

📎 1 attachment (37 KB)

AviationNoise-CityCouncilPolicyOrder#11-150518.doc;

Dear Mayor Maher, Vice Mayor Benzan and City Councillors:

Thanks to Councillors Kelley, McGovern, Cheung and Benzan for initiating a process to try to tame the increasing airplane noise that has been overwhelming Cambridge, Belmont, Somerville and Watertown residents. I hope the Council's vote to approve Policy Order 11 is unanimous.

Intrusive noise from airplanes negatively and seriously affects our quality of life as well as our health and our children's well-being and learning. Your endorsement of this Policy Order will be a heartening start. It means that the City is willing to engage (on behalf of its residents) on this serious quality of life and public health matter despite the fact that Massport & the FAA have ultimate control over aviation. Joining up with the other affected municipalities will certainly improve our chances for success.

I hope this effort encourages CDD to become more pro-active and engage in more outreach about these serious problems. *Compare* Belmont's activities:

- **Belmont Board of Selectmen's 3/15/15 letter to the FAA:**

"In December of 2013, we wrote to you expressing our communities concerns about the negative impact we were experiencing as a result of Runway 33L RNAV. We asked for community feedback and noise complaints to be considered by the FAA as part of the post-implementation review process. You responded in your letter dated January 15th, 2014 that comments and noise complaints would not be considered as part of these reviews and that any issues with community feedback and noise complaints should be addressed through the Logan CAC. We have now had 18 months of living with the effects of Runway 33L RNAV and can express to you on behalf of the community of Belmont that the impact has been overwhelmingly negative and significant. We receive numerous complaints from residents about the repetitive nature of the noise from the three RNAV flight paths that now cross our borders. Our CAC representative has been working in concert with our State Legislators and Congressional delegation as well as other impacted communities such as Arlington and Watertown."

- **Belmont's Logan Airport Community Advisory Committee representative**, Myron Kassaraba, has been posting information on the quietbelmont/BostonWestFairSkies listserv and manages and updates the Belmont's informative website: <http://www.belmont-ma.gov/logan-airport-community-advisory-committee/pages/logan-cac-document-index>.

But, that is not the end. Aviation noise from other sources has increased dramatically in the last 5 or so years:

– commercial banner-planes (Think GEICO! on any other fair-weather day, making huge, hours-long circles around the entire Eastern end of the Charles) and

– private news and traffic helicopters hovering in one location for extended periods of time.

These need to be addressed in a coordinated vigorous way, as well, lest our skies and ears are completely overwhelmed with noise.

Thank you, as always, for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Hare

172 Magazine St.

P.S. I've long been concerned about intrusive noise.

- I worked with former Mayor Davis on the Leaf Blower Ordinance.
- I've communicated (in person and writing) with the Mass DOT representatives and consultants and with CDD personnel about curbing the noise that will be generated during the Mass Turnpike & Viaduct repair and rerouting project across the Charles R. from the Cambridgeport and Riverside neighborhoods.
- And, I've written to the City Council about curbing other sources of unnecessary ambient noise, like illegal, after-market motorcycle mufflers that roar through our City streets without any apparent constraints and laboratory HVAC systems.

Cc: Donna Lopez: Please file with the Official Record

Other Cc's as listed above